

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY (U 60 W), a corporation, for an order authorizing it to increase rates charged for water service in the ANTELOPE VALLEY district by \$60,300, or 5.8%, in 2003, by \$130,600 or 11.8%, in 2004, by \$126,900, or 10.2%, in 2005, and \$127,500, or 9.3% in 2006.

Application 02-11-021

In the Matter of the Application of CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY (U 60 W), a corporation, for an order authorizing it to increase rates charged for water service in the KERN RIVER VALLEY district by \$913,200, or 46.9%, in 2003, by \$148,800 or 5.3%, in 2004, by \$137,500, or 4.6%, in 2005, and \$139,000, or 4.4% in 2006.

Application 02-11-022

ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S SCOPING MEMO AND RULING

Summary

This ruling sets forth the scope, service list, schedule, category, assignment of the principal hearing officer, and ex parte communications rules for this consolidated proceeding following a January 8, 2003 Prehearing Conference (PHC), pursuant to Rule 6.3 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules).

Scope of Proceeding

Any and all of the estimates upon which proposed revenue requirements and rates for the test and attrition years are based may be issues of dispute in the hearings.

Service List

With the taking of appearances at the PHC, a service list has been established for this proceeding, as set forth in Appendix A to this ruling. Parties shall serve filings on all appearances listed on the service list, including those identified as “State Service” and to the Assigned Commissioner and assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ).

Schedule

The schedule for this proceeding is as follows:

DATE	ACTIVITY
January 15, 2003	Utility Updated Testimony
April 7, 2003	ORA and any Interested Parties Testimony
April 9 and 10, 2003	Public Participation Hearings
April 25, 2003	Rebuttal Testimony and Witness List
May 6, 2003	Evidentiary Hearing Starts
May 7, 8, and 9, 2003	Evidentiary Hearings Continues, as needed
June 6, 2003	Opening Briefs, Request for Final Oral Argument, and Comparison Exhibit
June 16, 2003	Reply Briefs and Proposed Submittal Date
September 16, 2003	Proposed Decision Filed

The parties should limit their testimony to matters involving the identified issues. Any request for final oral argument before the Commission should be made as part of opening briefs.

My goal is to resolve this consolidated matter as soon as possible after it is submitted. However, in no event will resolution exceed 18 months from the date of filing this application, pursuant to Senate Bill 960, Section 12 and Rule 6(e).

Category of Proceeding

This ruling confirms the Commission's preliminary finding in Resolution ALJ 176-3101, dated November 21, 2002, that this consolidated proceeding is a ratesetting proceeding as described in Rule 5 (c).

Assignment of Principal Hearing Officer

ALJ Galvin will act as the principal hearing officer in this proceeding pursuant to Rule 5(l).

Ex Parte Communications

Parties shall observe and comply with the Commission's ex parte communications rules set forth in Rules 7 and 7.1.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The scope and schedule for this proceeding is set forth herein.
2. California Water Service Company (CWS) shall coordinate the order that witnesses shall testify with all interested parties and shall provide a copy of an agreed upon witness order list by letter to all parties and to the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) by April 25, 2003.
3. A Public Participation Hearing (PPH) shall be held on April 9, 2003, beginning at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. at the Lancaster City Hall Council Chambers, 44933 N. Fern Avenue, Lancaster, California.
4. A PPH shall be held on April 10, 2003, beginning at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. at the Moose Lodge, 6732 Lake Isabella Blvd., Lake Isabella, California.
5. CWS shall post in public places and publish in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation within its service territory notice of the time, date, and

place of the PPH, pursuant to Rule 52 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules). The PPH notices shall be reviewed and approved by the Commission's Public Advisor's Office prior to posting and publishing.

6. An evidentiary hearing in the proceeding shall be held beginning at 10 a.m. on May 6, 2003, and continue through and including May 9, 2003, as needed, in the Commission Courtroom, State Office Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California.

7. Any request for final oral argument before the Commission shall be made as part of opening briefs.

8. Any settlement conference that may occur in this proceeding shall comply with the Commission's Rules on Settlement Conferences.

9. The service list for this proceeding is set forth in Appendix A to this ruling. Parties shall serve filings on all appearances listed on the service list, including those identified as "State Service" and to the Assigned Commissioner and assigned ALJ.

10. This ruling confirms that this proceeding is a ratesetting proceeding for the purpose of Article 2.5.

11. ALJ Galvin is the principal hearing officer in this consolidated proceeding.

12. Parties shall observe and comply with the ex parte communications rules set forth in Rules 7 and 7.1.

Dated January 28, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ CARL WOOD
Carl Wood
Assigned Commissioner

APPENDIX A
SERVICE LIST

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(END OF APPENDIX A)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Assigned Commissioner's Scoping Memo and Ruling on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated January 28, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ KE HUANG

Ke Huang

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to ensure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.